

HB 351 Testimony
Long Range Planning Committee
February 1, 2011
Clint Jacobs, Manager
Dry Prairie Rural Water

EXHIBIT 7
DATE Feb. 1, 2011
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Chairman McNutt, Members of the Committee,

My name is Clint Jacobs, and I am the General Manger of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority. Dry Prairie is the off reservation component of the Ft Peck/ Dry Prairie Regional Water System in northeast Montana.

The map presented displays the present regional systems in Montana. The Ft Peck/Dry Prairie and the Rocky boys/North Central systems are authorized by Congress. The Dry Redwater and Central Montana systems are seeking authorization from Congress. The present planned regional systems in Montana represent 25% of the geographical area of Montana. In the decades to come the entire State will be served by regional systems.

The benefits of regional water systems are to use one central source and treatment facility and distribute the water through pipelines to serve towns, farms and ranches within regional areas. One point of supply and treatment also means one point at which Safe Drinking Water Standards need to be met. When fully constructed, the 22 public water systems will share one point of source and supply. Presently the communities of Froid, Medicine Lake, Bainville, Ft Kipp and Nashua are being served by the Dry Prairie system. Over 500 farms and ranches along the pipeline routes are also receiving high quality water that meets all Safe Drinking Water Standards. By June of this year another 120 farm and ranch services will be connected when the North Bainville construction segment is completed.

During the 1999 State Legislative Session a regional water funding mechanism was created through SB 220. That mechanism is now beginning to generate the level of funding that fulfills the State's obligations as a partner in systems that greatly enhance the quality of life for rural Montanans.

I urge your support to leave unhindered the normal funding mechanism of the TSEPRW Fund. In doing so, Dry Prairie will be positioned to start construction this summer on pipeline that will serve 100 additional farms and ranches in northeast Montana.